

Subsection 5

Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Liberty

Community Profile: Liberty is located on the northeast border of the county and has a population of approximately 2,661 persons. The Town of Liberty is served by eight wells and reportedly, demand will reach 65% by 2020. Liberty has no known geographically hazardous areas within its jurisdiction. Liberty employs a City Manager, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Public Works Director and Town Attorney. It does not have a planning department or GIS capability. The major employer for the town is Ultracraft. The Town of Liberty is within the 50-mile ingestion zone of the Shearon Harris Nuclear Facility. The facility is not mandated to have an evacuation plan for an area beyond 10 miles of the plant.

1. Statement of the Problem:

Liberty is vulnerable to high wind events such as those associated with severe thunderstorms, tropical and extra tropical systems, snow and ice events, river and stream flooding, flash flooding, and drought.

High wind events are highly likely to bring winds of between 38 and 73 miles per hour with winds of 74 to 100 mph possible. Tornadoes are possible with a probable intensity of F1 on the Fujita Pearson scale, which means wind speeds of 73-110 miles per hour (Category 1 hurricane winds on the Saffir Simpson scale.) Additionally, these high wind events are likely to carry with them the high probability of flash flooding and/or river and stream flooding, as well as lightning and hail.

Vulnerability to ice and snow storms are countywide and will result in continued wide spread power outages, downed trees and limbs, as well as potential structure and building damage from falling trees and branches, or accumulation of snow on rooftops not designed to handle the snow load.

Repetitive Loss Structures:

The Town of Liberty has no recorded repetitive loss structures.

Local Government Capability:

Liberty does not have a planning department or employ a planner. The town of Liberty has three major ordinances that regulate the development of land: the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, and watershed ordinance. The watershed regulations are included within the zoning ordinance and limit the development density of land in an effort to reduce the degradation of drinking water supplies

2. Hazard Mitigation Goals

The goals serve as the basis for development of the more specific plan objectives and hazard mitigation activities. The multi-jurisdictional planning group has developed the following goals which are broad policy statements aimed at guiding and directing future activity so that persons, property, government, and infrastructure are protected from the impacts of Natural Hazards.

1. To enhance local government capability to lessen the impacts of all natural hazards

2. To identify and protect critical services, buildings, facilities and infrastructure that is at risk of damage due to natural hazards.
3. To develop an effective public awareness/education/outreach program for natural hazards the county and municipalities are most likely to experience.
4. To protect persons and property, as well as reduce damage and loss to existing community assets.
5. To ensure disaster resistant future development

3. Hazard Mitigation Strategies for Liberty

In the following pages, mitigation actions for Liberty are listed and assigned specific implementation measures which include the assignment of responsibilities to local government departments and/or specific staff, along with the time frame for completion for each proposed mitigation action. When applicable, potential funding sources were also listed.

GOAL 1: To enhance local government capability to lessen the impacts of all natural hazards
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Background: Liberty does not have a planning department or employ a planner. The town of Liberty has three major ordinances that regulate the development of land: the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, and watershed ordinance. The watershed regulations are included within the zoning ordinance and limit the development density of land in an effort to reduce the degradation of drinking water supplies.

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- Zoning ordinance
- Subdivision ordinance
- Watershed protection ordinance

Objective: To increase local capacity to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters.

Strategy #	Project or Policy	Hazard	Funding	Lead Dept.
1A	Employ a planner	Multi hazard	Local	Town Manager
1B	Create planning department	Multi hazard	Local	Town Manager
1C	Adopt flood prevention ordinance	Flood	Local	Town Manager
1D	Update existing Emergency Operations Plan	Multi hazard	Local	Town Manager
1E	Review and amend existing capital improvement plan to ensure capital improvements support mitigating activities and are not counter to hazard mitigation	Multi hazard	Local	Town Manager
1F	Become National Flood Insurance Program Member	Flood	Local	Town Manager
1G	Develop procedure for recording damage assessment information such as type of hazard, location of hazard occurrence, when it occurred, death or injury, property damaged, narrative description of damage (not just \$ value) for local use in hazard mitigation and land use planning.	Multi hazard	Local	County EM/County Planning; covers all jurisdictions
1H	Develop emergency water supply capability as part of local water supply planning process.	Multi hazard	Local	
1I	Develop and adopt a drought management/water shortage (conservation) ordinance as part of local water supply planning process.	Drought	Local	Town Manager

GOAL 2: To identify and protect critical services, buildings, facilities and infrastructure

Background: Town of Liberty does not have any critical facilities located in a geographically hazardous area. However, alternative power sources are necessary when natural disasters result in large-scale power outages.

Objective: To ensure a continuous power supply for critical facilities and services during and after an ice/snow storm

Strategy #	Project or Policy	Hazard	Funding	Lead Dept.
2 A	Evaluate generators and fuel for alternative sources of power for critical facilities	Ice/snow storm High wind events	<i>Local</i>	<i>Town Manager/Finance officer</i>
2 B	Strengthen mobile home/manufactured home anchoring requirements	High wind events	<i>Local</i>	<i>Town Manager</i>

GOAL 3: To develop an effective public awareness/education/outreach program for natural hazards the county and municipalities are most likely to experience.

Background: Currently the town does not have a formal outreach program for hazard mitigation or hazard awareness. Liberty has no flood plains or other geographically hazardous area within town limits or ETJ.

Objective: Increase awareness and understanding of local government and general public of the need for hazard mitigation to protect persons and property from the impacts of natural hazards.

Strategy #	Project or Policy	Hazard	Funding	Lead Dept.
3 A	Educate and inform local government and elected officials (decision makers) of the need to consider hazard mitigation in policy and budgetary planning and decision making processes	<i>Multi-hazard</i>	<i>Local</i>	<i>Town Manager with assistance from PTCOG</i>
3 B	Design a seasonal public information/education program targeted to mobile home/manufactured home residents through central permit process - explaining hazards such as high wind events, flooding and alternative shelters in a storm/high wind event/ flood through central permit process already in place	<i>Multi-hazard</i>	<i>Local</i>	<i>County Planning/ Emergency Management</i>

GOAL 4: To protect persons and property and reduce damage and loss to *existing* community assets including addressable structures, critical facilities, critical services and infrastructure due to natural hazards

Background: Liberty has no known hazard risks associated with its geography. The County will pursue a 911 reverse call system for warning specific areas under threat from natural hazards.

Objectives:

- To identify vulnerable populations and provide emergency shelter.
- To protect and warn persons and existing development from flood damage, dam failure and other geographically specific hazard locations.

Strategy #	Project or Policy	Hazard	Funding	Lead Dept.
4 A	Identify and map mobile home parks	Multi – hazard	Local	Town Manager with County assistance
4 B	Identify and designate at least one emergency shelter in each municipality	Multi hazard	Local	Town Manager /County Emergency Management
4 C	Put in place a countywide 911 reverse call system for location specific warning to public of impending disaster	Multi hazard	Homeland security funds	Countywide /Emergency Management
4 D	Develop program to clear debris from culverts and storm drains in priority floodplains.	Flooding	Local	Public Works
4 E	Adopt tree planting ordinances or programs and landscaping practices that encourage planting trees which are less susceptible to damage from ice storms	Ice events	Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program	Town Manager
4F	Consider Urban Forestry Services development	Ice and wind events	Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program	Town Manager

GOAL 5: To ensure disaster resistant future development

Background: The Town of Liberty does not have a land use plan, however it plans to build local planning capability.

Objectives:

- To protect future development from the impacts of natural hazards
- Regulate future development to prevent damages and losses from natural hazard events

Strategy #	Project or Policy	Hazard	Funding	Lead Dept.
5 A	Through amendments to existing subdivision regulations, encourage that power, cable and telephone lines be buried	High Wind/ Ice/Snow	Local	<i>Town Manager/planner</i>
5 B	Include in existing land development plans, adopt as town policy: Wherever possible preserve natural wetlands, designate conservation corridors, especially along streams through acquisition or conservation easements.	Multi-hazard	Local	<i>Town Manager/Planner</i>
5 C	Include in existing land development plans, where feasible will encourage street interconnectivity in all new subdivisions to allow multiple access points.	Multi-hazard	Local	<i>Town Manager/Planner</i>
5 D	Include in existing land development plans, wherever possible preserve natural wetlands, designate conservation corridors, especially along streams through acquisition or conservation easements.	Multi-hazard	Local	<i>Town Manager/Planner</i>

4. Implementation

Plan implementation will start from the time that it is adopted. Work has already started on several of the mitigation strategies identified in the Mitigation Strategies section. Each City Department will be responsible for pursuing the development of policies, programs, ordinance revisions, and regulations as they are assigned.

The Town of Liberty will create a process to incorporate requirements in this hazard mitigation plan into the floodplain ordinance, subdivision ordinance and zoning activities. During the planning process for all new and updated local planning documents, such as a land development plan, comprehensive plan, or capital improvement plan, the Town Manager will provide a copy of the hazard mitigation plan to each member of the planning team. The Town Manager will ensure that all goals and strategies of new and updated local planning documents are consistent with the hazard mitigation plan and will not contribute to increased hazards in the jurisdiction.

A process for prioritization of identified hazard mitigation strategies was performed. The hazard mitigation planning team used the following criteria for prioritization of strategies:

1. Cost-benefit review
2. Results of vulnerability assessment
3. Results of hazard identification and analysis
4. Results of capability assessment.
5. Effectiveness in meeting hazard mitigation goals.

The results of the capability assessment as well as the cost-benefit review were given special emphasis. The prioritization of the strategies is designated through listing them as high, moderate or low priority. Time frames have been categorized as short-term and long-term. Short-term strategies are those that can be implemented within existing resources and authorities and should be completed within a time frame of 6 months to 2 years. Short-term activities are generally a higher priority and include those activities that should be implemented immediately following the adoption of this plan. Long-term strategies may require new or additional resources or authorities and should be organized to begin implementation within a timeframe of 3 – 5 years.

Priority	Strategy#	New (N) Continuation (C) Amendment (A)	Ongoing (no end date)	Short Term (resources, and authority available now)	Long Term (resources or authority currently not available)
High	1A	N		X	
High	1B	N			X
High	1C	N		X	
Moderate	1D	A		X	
Low	1E	N		X	
High	1F	N	X	X	
High	1G	N			X
Moderate	1H	C			X
High	1I	A	X	X	

High	2A	C	X	X	
Low	2B	A		X	
High	3A	N	X	X	
Moderate	3B	N	X		X
Moderate	4A	C	X	X	
High	4B	C		X	
High	4C	N			X
High	4D	N	X	X	
Low	4E	N			X
Low	4F	N			X
Moderate	5A	N	X		X
High	5B	A	X		X
Low	5C	N	X		X
High	5D	N	X		X

5. Monitoring, Evaluating, and Reporting Progress

The evaluation form in Appendix D will be used by County staff to begin the evaluation process. The base year statistics used in calculating progress will be the year prior to each five-year cycle. This form will be completed and submitted to the County Hazard Mitigation Taskforce, as well as all City and Town Managers (where there is no Town Manager the form will be sent to the Town Clerk).

The Town of Liberty Hazard Mitigation Taskforce will include the Town Manager, Fire and Public Works Director. This core taskforce (and others at the discretion of the taskforce) will convene annually to review the County evaluation form, evaluate the Plan's effectiveness, and make recommendations for revision or amendment as necessary.

The task force will then prepare an evaluation report summarizing the progress of the Plan. The evaluation and progress report should consider the following questions.

- Have lead agencies participated as originally proposed?
- Have outcomes been adequate?
- What problems have occurred in the implementation process?
- Have members of the public been adequately involved?

The report will include:

- The status of benchmarks and indicators,
- Difficulties or impediments during implementation;
- Changes in County priorities
- Recommendations for changes, revisions, or amendments to the plan.

In addition to the annual review, the Town of Liberty Hazard Mitigation Taskforce will review and update the plan after any *presidential disaster declaration* for the Town of Liberty

6. Revisions and Updates:

After completion of the evaluation report the taskforce will present the findings with recommendations for updates and revision to the City Council for amendment to Subsection 5: Town of Liberty Hazard Mitigation Plan. As updates occur, the date, reason and responsible party should be noted. Updates or revisions which affect the plan as a whole or impacts any other jurisdiction(s) will require a presentation of findings and recommendations to, and ultimate adoption by, those jurisdictions' council members.

When changes to any part of this plan entail substantial budgetary considerations, the revisions or amended plan must be submitted to the NCDEM and FEMA for review.

At the end of every five-year cycle, the Randolph County Hazard Mitigation Taskforce will convene a planning committee with representatives from each jurisdiction in the county. The committee will review and update the hazard profile, vulnerability

assessment and local capability section and submit these to the County Manager and all City and Town Managers (where there is no town manager, the town clerk) for their review, and subsequent adoption by the County Commissioners and City/Town Councils.

7. Continued Public Involvement

To facilitate continued public involvement in the planning process:

- The public will be invited to participate in the annual review of the plan.
- Copies of the plan will be kept on hand at the public library and at the Town Hall. The plan will have a contact address, email address, and phone number of the person responsible for keeping track of public comments on the plan.
- The plan will be available on the Randolph County Website, and will contain an email address and phone number the public can use for submitting comments and concerns about the plan.